



December 20, 2012

SCAG Hosts Successful Third Annual Economic Summit

California State Controller John Chiang was among the nearly 300 business leaders, elected officials and dignitaries attending the Third Annual SCAG Economic Summit: Accelerating Southern California's Economic Recovery, at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles on December 6. In his keynote address, Controller Chiang outlined the state's budget and current fiscal challenges. Joining him on stage to present opening remarks were several state legislators, including Assemblymember Mike Morrell, District 40; Assemblymember Donald P. Wagner, District 68; and Senator Roderick Wright, District 35.

SCAG Executive Director Hasan Ikhata and prominent economists next led a review of economic data presented at the inaugural 2010 Economic Summit and the Southern California Economic Recovery and Job Creation Strategy released in 2011. The data was compared with the current state of the economy in the six-county SCAG region and a report on the benefits of accelerating infrastructure projects and focusing investment efforts in the region's top industry clusters. The informative session led to an open discussion, moderated by Frank Mottek, anchor of KNX 1070 Newsradio's "The Business Hour," where local leaders expressed agreement on advancing economic recovery priorities.



pictured: (top to bottom) State Controller John Chiang, Summit attendees listen to keynote speakers and tweet summit information and State Senator Rod Wright.

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In April of 2012, SCAG's Regional Council unanimously approved the 2012–2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2012–2035 RTP/SCS). The 2012–2035 RTP/SCS is a long-range plan that improves overall mobility, reduces greenhouse gases and enhances the quality of life for the region's residents and will create approximately 500,000 jobs per year over the life of the plan by increasing the global competitiveness of Southern California. Transportation projects face many hurdles to faster project delivery methods, however, including funding availability challenges, environmental review process issues, and other process uncertainties such as agency coordination. SCAG engaged prominent economists from throughout the SCAG region to analyze the impacts of accelerating project delivery, moving a 5-year tranche of the 2012–2035 RTP/SCS forward 5 years. This analysis concluded that 102,143 construction jobs would be brought forward per year, created sooner in an industry crucial to Southern California's recovery. Infrastructure enhancement leads to an expeditious and enhanced economic competitiveness with 120,639 jobs created per year. The reduction in travel time, emissions, fuel consumption and vehicle operating costs will lead to an additional 83,654 jobs per year. Advancing five years of projects would result in a decrease in construction cost by \$1.25–1.95B (or 5–9% of construction cost).

A key purposes of the Economic Summit was to bring together state and regional leaders to help establish a list of State Legislative Priorities to expedite the region's economic recovery. Some of these legislative priorities for the 2013-2014 State Legislative Session include:

- Project streamlining and expediting project delivery and job creation.
- New method of financing projects and investing in the community.
- Ensuring a portion of the revenues generated from the Cap & Trade program are allocated to transportation improvements.
- Lowering the threshold for local voters to approve local tax measures.

To view the Regional Economic Update presentation, SCAG Economic Summit program and recorded video from the day's events, please visit:

www.scag.ca.gov/economicsummit.

State Approves Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan

Following the Thanksgiving Holiday, SCAG received word that the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)/Division of Housing Policy Development approved SCAG's Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan (RHNA). In his letter to SCAG, HCD Assistant Deputy Director Glen A. Campora commended SCAG's leadership in coordinating the RHNA plan with the 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy to improve housing and transportation planning.

State approval of SCAG's RHNA could not have been accomplished without the leadership and dedicated service of the RHNA Subcommittee: Hon. Bill Jahn, Chair (City of Big Bear Lake); Hon. Carl Morehouse (City of San Buenaventura); Hon. Bryan MacDonald (City of Oxnard); Hon. Steve Hofbauer (City of Palmdale); Hon. Margaret

Finlay (City of Duarte); Hon. Sukhee Kang (City of Irvine); Hon. Ron Garcia (City of Brea); Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker (City of El Centro); Hon. Jack Terrazas (County of Imperial); Hon. Randon Lane (City of Murrieta); and Hon. Darcy Kuenzi (City of Menifee). For more information visit: bit.ly/CAApprovedRHNA.

SCAG GIS Services Highlighted in GeoWorld

In the November issue of GeoWorld, SCAG was able to highlight its growing geographic information systems (GIS) training and services for local cities and counties within the region. Established in 2010, the GIS Services Program provides free technical services, trainings and software to SCAG member agencies. Currently, a total of 79 local jurisdictions participate in the program as well as the Coachella Valley Association of Governments and Imperial County Transportation Commission. The GIS Services Program has been invaluable to many agencies during these tough economic times. The education and free software has allowed cities to provide additional services, add revenue streams, and improve local and regional planning. To read more about the SCAG GIS Services Program, please visit: bit.ly/GeoWorldSCAG-GIS.

City of Lancaster Wins Major EPA Recognition

Congratulations to the City of Lancaster's BLVD Transformation Project for receiving the Environmental Protection Agency's 2012 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement. The project has transformed downtown Lancaster with new streetscape design, public facilities, affordable homes and local businesses, generating nearly 2,000 jobs. SCAG is currently working with the City of Lancaster on a Compass Demonstration Project that would broaden and expand the success of the BLVD project, by revitalizing and bringing new investment into an adjacent industrial area. More information about the award and the EPA's Smart Growth program is available [here](#).

Register for the 2013 SCAG Regional Conference & General Assembly

SCAG is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the 2013 Regional Conference & General Assembly, May 2 – 3, 2013, at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort in Palm Desert. The annual event brings together elected officials, community leaders and business stakeholders throughout Southern California to discuss the region's most pressing issues. Last year, over 800 participated in the approval of the Final 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. This year, the theme of the Regional Conference & General Assembly is "Gateway to National Prosperity," where the region's key goods movement industry will be highlighted. To register or review sponsorship opportunities, please visit the event website, www.scag.ca.gov/ga2013.

SCAG Retirees Honored

The Southern California Association of Governments said farewell to three long-serving employees who are retiring at the end of December. At a special luncheon, SCAG recognized Sylvia Patsaouras, Director of Policy, Strategy & Public Affairs – 20 years; Deby Salcido, Officer to the Regional Council – 11 years; and Mike Armstrong, Transportation Program Manager – 33 years. Their skill and professionalism have contributed greatly to SCAG's success. SCAG's Regional Council and staff thank Sylvia, Deby and Mike for their loyalty, dedication and service and wish them all the best in retirement.





pictured from left to right: Sylvia Patsaouras, Deby Salcido and Mike Armstrong

EVENTS

JANUARY

3rd SCAG Regional Council & Policy Committees Meetings

18th High-Speed Rail & Transit Subcommittee Meeting

21st Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, SCAG Offices closed

28th Joint Meeting of the Goods Movement and Transportation Finance Subcommittees

FEBRUARY

7th SCAG Regional Council & Policy Committees Meetings

11th Goods Movement Subcommittee Meeting

15th High-Speed Rail & Transit Subcommittee Meeting

18th Observance of Presidents Day, SCAG Offices closed

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